

God Centered Solutions to Man Centered Problems, Part 2 - Romans 3:23-24 – August 14th, 2011

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Today's teaching will be part two of a series titled; "God Centered Solutions to Man Centered Problems."- The Apostle Paul has been rising from the pages of this chapter and in so doing has been teaching to us how it's not all about us, it's about God.
One commentator said it best this way; "The big danger in preaching this [passage] is that we treat it as if it were about us, when it is about God. It is not centrally about me... This God-centeredness is a problem for preachers, for we think people will pay more attention if the message is centered on human beings."
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Actually, this is the problem! Man-centered problems are problems because they're man-centered, and this is the reason there are no solutions.- If we're wondering why it is that the church today is in such peril, perhaps we need look no further than to what's preached in the church today.- There's no victory in our life, and there's no solutions to the problems in our life when all we ever hear are how to sermons on success in our life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The problems get even worse when, not if we fail after trying to keep the seven promises, or develop the seven habits of highly effective people.- This brand of Christianity cannot work because the seed of its success was planted in the infertile soil of man-centeredness. It will not grow!- This is the reason the beloved Apostle writes this in this way in his epistle. It's not chiefly about me and salvation, it's about God and justification.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The problem of our salvation, comes vis-a-vis the solution of God's justification. Absent this, the divine dilemma of man's sin has no solution.- As long as I insist and persist in trying to solve my problems, my way, there's no way. The only way it comes is from the one Who is "the way."- We saw the first way, in part one, where in verse 21, Paul unveils the first way that God-centered solutions to man-centered problems will come.
1. Come from God apart from the law (Verse 21) -v21 Paul says that now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, testified to by both the Prophets and the law, has now been made known. - If it were under the law, and not apart from the law, then there can be now salvation, because according to the law, I receive only condemnation.
2. Come through faith to those who believe (Verse 22) -v22 He tells them that this righteousness from God, comes through faith, in Jesus Christ, to all who believe. It's not through self-righteousness. - If it were, then instead of a righteousness from God through faith apart from the law, I could in self-righteousness, apart from God, keep the law.
3. Come by grace for all have sinned (Verses 23-24) (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. -v23 He says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, which is why there is no difference between the Jews, and the Gentiles. -v24 He ever so beautifully explains how it is that we are all justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that only came by Christ Jesus. - I am keenly aware that what I'm about to say will be deemed a firm grasp of the obvious however; "all our problems are because all are sinners!"
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Why do I have problems in the marriage? It's because there are sinners in the marriage! A problem free marriage, is a people free marriage.- In other words, it's not a marriage problem, it's a sin problem, and the only answer to this sin problem for man, is the grace solution from God.- I am justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that comes by Jesus Christ. That's why it's not my salvation, it's His justification.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To define justification, by way of illustration; it would be like one of my sons hacking into my account and making exorbitant purchases online.- Then, when the statement arrives, we have a serious problem. I see this enormous amount of debt that's owed, and my son cannot pay for it.- Because of my grace he's justified freely, when I pay his debt in full, not requiring him to pay me back. He could say; it's just-if-I'd never did it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- As one so aptly put it; "He writes the check of redemption to pay the price of propitiation." Now there's justification for my salvation.- This is the God-centered solution of salvation by way of justification. It's by the grace of God through the redemption of Jesus Christ.- For the benefit of those having difficulty with words like justification, redemption, and propitiation, let me take a moment to explain their meaning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In the illustration of my son's justification, were he under the obligation by law to pay in Paul's day, he would be sold into slavery for his debts.- I redeem him by paying for him so he's freed from the slave market. Now, I've paid the debt of salvation at the cost of redemption.- As for the word propitiation; that is how God solves man's sin problem. God's wrath is appeased, and that is what the word propitiation means.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- So, back to our illustration; the judges wrath has been appeased, by virtue of how the debt that was owed has been paid for in full by another.- God's wrath was satisfied by Christ's sacrifice of atonement, and we'll see this with our fifth God centered solution in the next verse, next week.- I want to close with a question; "since God did all of this for our salvation eternally, will He not also take care of you in this world temporally?"
Psalms 55:22 NIV Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.
1 Peter 5:7 NIV Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
Matthew 6:26-34 NIV Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (27) Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (28) "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. (29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. (30) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.